

October 25, 2017

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met and voted to:

1. Recommend a new herpes zoster subunit vaccine (HZ/su) known as Shingrix®, for immunocompetent adults aged 50 years and older.
2. Recommend HZ/su for individuals previously vaccinated with Zoster Vaccine Live (ZVL), known as Zostavax®.
3. Make a preferential recommendation for HZ/su over ZVL.

Once approved by CDC, the shingles vaccine recommendations will be published in the MMWR, at which time the recommendations will become official CDC policy.

Information for all VFA enrolled practices:

The preferential recommendation was made by the ACIP only 5 days after approval by the FDA. At this time the HZ/su (Shingrix®) vaccine is not available for ordering from the CDC contract. We expect it will be in the next few months and are awaiting guidance from CDC. Practices may continue to order ZVL (Zostavax) to provide zoster vaccination to patients prior to availability of HZ/su vaccine or if there is a provider preference.

The Immunization Program expects to make both zoster vaccines available for order through September 30, 2018.

***** General information about the Herpes Zoster Subunit (HZ/su) vaccine**

Vaccine/Dosage

The HZ/su vaccine is a recombinant, adjuvanted vaccine for the prevention of herpes zoster (shingles). It was developed by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). On October 20, 2017, the FDA licensed this new shingles vaccine, called [Shingrix®](#), for adults 50 years and older in the United States. Two doses of the new shingles vaccine are given two to six months apart. The vaccine is administered intramuscularly and is a refrigerated vaccine.



Side Effects

Currently available data suggests that the new shingles vaccine is safe. In clinical trials, the most common side effect was mild to moderate pain where the shot was given. Other side effects included pain, redness or swelling where the shot was given, muscle pain, fatigue, fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, or shivering. The side effects lasted 1-2 days. Although no serious adverse events were observed, about 17% of people who received the vaccine did have a reaction that interfered with their activities.

As with all vaccines, CDC and FDA will continue to monitor the new shingles vaccine for potential safety concerns.

Clinical Trials

In clinical trials, the new shingles vaccine provided high levels of protection in all age groups against shingles and postherpetic neuralgia (PHN), the most common complication from shingles. The vaccine showed:

- 97% protection against shingles in adults 50-69 years old
- 91% protection against shingles in adults 70 years and older
- 91% protection against PHN in adults 50 years and older
- Protection of 85% or above was maintained for 4 years after vaccination.

For information about the clinical trials, see

- [Efficacy of the herpes zoster subunit vaccine in adults 70 years of age or older](#), *NEJM*, 2016
- [Efficacy of an Adjuvanted Herpes Zoster Subunit Vaccine in Older Adults](#), *NEJM*, 2015
- [A New Vaccine to Prevent Herpes Zoster](#), *NEJM*, 2015

If you have any questions, please e-mail the Immunization Program at AHS.VDHimmunizationprogram@vermont.gov

